



Minutes

Bicycle & Trails Advisory Committee

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 28, 2005

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Cheu called the meeting to order at 6:15pm

PRESENT: Hubbell, Cheu, Clark, and McCann

ABSENT: Hauge, Scott, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Tom Madalena

STAFF: Public Works Senior Engineer Julie Behzad
Public Works Administrative Secretary Karen Nelson

DECLARATION - POSTING OF AGENDA: Ms. Behzad certified that this meeting's agenda was duly noticed and posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Cheu opened the meeting to public comments. There being no comments, the public comments period was closed.

MINUTES: The minutes for the March 24, 2005 meeting were unanimously approved.

ORAL REPORTS:

1. Staff Report

*** Fundraising Legalities for BTAC Sponsored Events**

Ms. Behzad reported that she is still waiting for a response from our City Attorney's office.

*** Appointment of BTAC Members / PRC May Meeting**

Ms. Behzad reported that letters went out in March inviting applications for 3 vacant positions. PRC should review appointments at their May meeting. BTAC bylaws state that committee members can continue to serve after their April 1st term expiration, until they are replaced or reappointed. A new Chair and Vice-Chair will be appointed in June.

2. Countywide Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee Update (BPAC)

- Bob Eltgroth sent an e-mail summarizing items discussed at the April BPAC meeting. Ms. Behzad said that summary would be posted with these minutes, and are as follows:

I will continue to attend the VTA BPAC meetings until the paperwork from Morgan Hill to VTA completes so that I no longer receive the meeting notices. Member Hauge will not be allowed to vote at these meetings until he gets accepted by the VTA board. I would like to know when Morgan Hill submits Chris's paperwork so that I can keep VTA staff assessed of the situation.

At the April VTA BPAC meeting:

No Morgan Hill project listed in the Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report was in danger of losing funding. Various reports like this list projects funded by different sources. The Little Llagas Creek Tier I project gets listed in another report. There is a good chance that the Little Llagas Creek project will be in trouble.

At the March VTA BPAC meeting, VTA staff person John Ristow said that the 152/156 interchange project and the HW 101 project south of 25 would not accommodate bicycles. At the time, I quoted Streets and Highways Code 888, but Mr. Ristow insisted that freeway projects don't have to accommodate bicycles. As a result, Richard Swent (the BPAC representative from Palo Alto) wrote a letter to various public officials asking that funding for the 152/156 project be cut off because, based on Mr. Ristow's report, it violates so many county, state, and federal laws.

At the April meeting, a letter prepared by Mr. Ristow for Carolyn Gonot (Chief Development Officer for VTA) was distributed explaining that bicycles will be accommodated on the 152/156 interchange, and that VTA was following county, state, and federal laws in managing the project. The letter was to Richard Swent with Congressman Mike Honda, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, the VTA Board of Directors, Council Member Yoriko Kishimoto (City of Palo Alto), and Dana Cowell of Caltrans receiving copies.

One thing in the letter that bothers me is a reference that these routes do not appear in any plans as designated bicycle routes. All roads should be considered bicycle routes.

I requested a similar report about the HW 101 project.

Not on the BPAC agenda, but on the CAC (Citizens Advisory Committee) agenda was an item about a \$500,000 South County Circulation Study. Both CAC members and BPAC members asked that this be put on a future VTA BPAC agenda. Note that the study only looks at automobile and transit. Trucks, bicycles, and pedestrians all get left out.

Mayor Kennedy did send out a letter appointing Member Hauge as BTAC's Representative. Member Hauge notified Ms. Behzad saying he wouldn't be able to attend for the next couple of months. Mr. Eltgroth will attend for Member Hauge for a couple meetings.

3. Chair Announcements

- None

BUSINESS

1. City Council Goals Regarding Governance / BTAC Work Plan

Ms. Behzad reported that she received notice from the City Manager that a BTAC work plan was to be prepared for the April 19th PRC meeting. She compiled a list of the items discussed in the March BTAC meeting, including the following which had been suggested to be included in the BTAC work plan: 1) Annual Bike Rodeo at Art Ala Cart 2) Providing bike parking at all annual events such as Taste of Morgan Hill and Mushroom Mardi Gras 3) Annual Bike to Work Day energizer station in Morgan Hill 4) Updating bicycle resources directory every five years 5) Orientation manuals for new members 6) Training in rules of order for conducting meetings 7) An approved allocated budget for BTAC to support annual events such as Bike Rodeo

PRC heard the item, there weren't any questions, and it was approved and Ms. Behzad will let BTAC know when this goes to Council. Members asked if items could be added to the Work Plan; Ms. Behzad will get an answer. If necessary, the Work Plan can be amended and sent back to both PRC and Council at a later time. Members want to add: Bicycle Friendly Community Application, tracking Bikeways Master Plan accomplishments, and Community Cycling Annual Award.

2. Bike Race

Member Scott wasn't present to report. The published attendance goal was 300 to 400, and the 600 participants pushed the event over the edge to financial success. The race was very well received by the community. Member Cheu reported that some of his customers told him they preferred our race to the Sea Otter Classic. This race is meant to be a prelude to the Sea Otter. This item will be continued to give Member Scott a chance to give her report.

3. Bike Rodeo

Member Hubbell reported we still need to get funding and people to work on 5/14/05 from 11am to 3pm. BTAC and SafeMoves are going to be ready at 10am. Members Scott and McCann will work. We have been moved in closer to the children's pavilion. Our table will be close to where our rodeo will be. Member Hubbell will ask Member Scott to get bike stands for providing bike parking next to our area. Next Art ala Cart meeting is on May 5th, Members McCann and Hubbell will attend. Consensus was that a table should be located next to the site. Member Cheu will bring three tents. The area needs to be 150' x 100' plus enough room for 3 - 10x10 tents. Ms. Behzad reported that she spoke with Therese Lugger and BTAC has been given \$500 in funding. Additionally, PRC gave \$250, which will need to be approved by Council. Member Hubbell contacted Fox Racing requesting a \$500 donation. Members were reminded that Specialized Bike might bring t-shirts and water bottles, and possibly donate \$500.

4. Bike To Work Week

Member McCann again expressed his concern at the administration by the South Valley Bike Coalition as they have been fairly unresponsive. Member Scott agreed to have Specialized donate water bottles and other items. Albertson's is a sponsor and can also be contacted to provide fruit, etc... Member McCann is making a video for Bike to Work Week with others from Cupertino. It will be shown on the Morgan Hill channel. There are 45 energizer stations in Santa Clara County, which is the largest in the Bay Area. www.511.org is the Bike to Work Day site, and riders can pre-register there. Bike to Work Day will be held on 5/19. Members Hubbell and Cheu will be at the energizer station at 6am.

5. Educational Programs (ie. Sprockids/LAB Programs)

Member Hubbell stated there isn't much to report. He will speak with Chiquy Schoenduve, Recreation Programs, at the bike rodeo. Member Hauge is still working with the Charter school.

6. Bike Parking at Various Community Events

Member Hubbell reported we will provide bike parking at Mushroom Mardi Gras on Saturday and Sunday, and only two people at a time are needed. The materials will be taken to E. 1st St and Member Clark will set it up on Saturday morning; Member McCann will also work Saturday morning. Member Hubbell will be work Saturday afternoon. Member Cheu will work Sunday morning. Last year, the Chamber arranged for volunteers from the Future Business Leaders of America to help staff the bike parking.

7. Nominations for Cycling Promotion Award

By unanimous decision, Bob Eltgroth was chosen to receive the 2005 award. Member Scott will be asked to contact Bill Vitale, a Specialized employee, who has the artwork from the last award, so she can ask him to prepare the award in time for the 5/18 Council meeting.

8. Morgan Hill's Bicycle Friendly Community Application

Member Hauge was absent. This item will be continued.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- LAB Newsletter – National Bike Summit Update – Safe Passing Bill going around some states requiring 3' when passing a cyclist. National Update – go to their website for the update; they are trying to get more people to attend the Summit.

REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS

(This is the opportunity for any committee member to have an item placed on a future agenda.)

- Appointment of New BTAC Members in May
- Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair in June
- Bikeways Master Plan Quarterly Review in May
- Member McCann would like to explore the idea of upgrading our committee to a commission.
What does the City require to make that change?

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm. The next meeting will be held on May 26, 2005 at 6:15 pm.